

REMARKS

This Response responds to the Office Action dated March 27, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claim 1 claims an equipment management system and claim 11 claims an equipment management method for managing equipment by an equipment management apparatus for acquiring management information from the equipment and a central management apparatus for centrally managing management information making packet data communication via a network over which a data processor is connected. The central management apparatus and method include a transmission controller for transmitting, to the data processor in advance of installing a new equipment management apparatus, packet data containing connection check data addressed to a newly installed equipment management apparatus. A reception controller acquires the packet data containing the connection check data transmitted to the apparatus from the data processor before starting equipment management.

Through the structure and method of the claimed invention transmitting, to a data processor in advance of installing a new equipment management apparatus, packet data containing connection check data which is addressed to a newly installed equipment management apparatus, and having the equipment management apparatus acquire the packet data from the data processor, as claimed in claims 1 and 11, the claimed invention provides an equipment management system which can speedily make a connection check when equipment management apparatus is newly installed. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 11.

Claim 14 claims an equipment management method for managing equipment by an equipment management apparatus for acquiring management information from equipment and a central management apparatus for centrally managing management information making communication in accordance with a first communication system or a second communication system . The equipment management method comprises the steps of registering information concerning an equipment management apparatus to be newly installed at the central management apparatus; determining whether a communication system between the newly installed equipment management apparatus and the central management apparatus is a first communication system or a second communication system; and in the case where the communication system is the first communication system, the central management apparatus transmitting connection check data addressed to the equipment management apparatus without receiving initial transmission data from the equipment management apparatus to be newly installed, and in the case where the communication system is the second communication system, the central management apparatus transmitting the connection check data addressed to the equipment management apparatus in response to reception of the initial transmission data from the equipment management apparatus to be newly installed.

Through the method of the claimed invention determining whether a communication system is a first or second communication system and communicating connection check data therewith with different methods including transmitting data without receiving initial transmission data when a first communication system is used and by transmitting data in response to reception of initial transmission data when a second communication system is used as claimed in

claim 14, the claimed invention provides an equipment management method which can change the method for initial settings in order to speedily connect the device. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 14.

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-13 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Smith et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,015) in view of *L'Heureux et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,942).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims and allows the claims to issue.

Smith et al. at Table 2, column 7, lines 15 through column 8, line 46, a description of commands to effect access control, aliases, subscriptions and reconfigurations as described in Table 1, column 6, lines 1-33. Nothing in *Smith et al.* shows, teaches or suggests a transmission controller which transmits packet data in advance of installing a new equipment manager apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 11. Rather, Table 2 merely discloses the commands and descriptions thereof used to affect access control, aliases, subscriptions and reconfigurations.

Additionally, *Smith et al.* discloses at column 10, lines 20-24, creating a message to an addressee, where the addressee may be predetermined or default addressee, for example, signaling connection of a printer for coordinating automated installation. Thus, *Smith et al.* merely discloses a predetermined or default address to send a message for coordinating automatic installation. Nothing in *Smith et al.* shows, teaches or suggests in advance of installing a new equipment management apparatus, transmitting packet data addressed to the newly to be installed equipment

management apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 11. Rather, *Smith et al.* teaches away from the claimed invention since the default address is already prestored and thus is not transmitted in advance of installing the equipment.

Finally, *Smith et al.* is directed to e-mailing status reports to report operating conditions of the device. (Column 2, lines 40-49). Nothing in *Smith et al.* shows, teaches or suggests installing new equipment management apparatus and transmitting packet data in advance of installing the apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 11. Rather, *Smith et al.* is merely directed to monitoring a system in order to service the equipment when necessary.

L'Heureux et al. merely discloses sending an e-mail message to a recipient's server where it is stored until the recipient downloads it during an e-mail session (column 3, lines 25-31). Nothing in *L'Heureux et al.* shows, teaches or suggests a) installation of a new equipment management apparatus or b) transmitting packet data in advance of installing the new equipment management apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 11. In other words, *L'Heureux et al.* is merely directed to formatting data for an e-mail and does not show, teach or suggest transmitting packet data in advance of installing a new apparatus.

The combination of *Smith et al.* and *L'Heureux et al.* would merely suggest that when a peripheral device needs to be serviced, sending an e-mail to a subscriber as taught by *Smith et al.* and if the subscriber is not in an e-mail session, to store the message in the recipient's server until the recipient downloads it during an e-mail session as taught by *L'Heureux et al.* Thus, nothing in *Smith et al.* or *L'Heureux et al.* show, teach or suggest a) installing a new apparatus or b) in advance of installation of the new apparatus, transmitting packet data addressed to

the new apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 11. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 2-3, 6, 9-10, 12-13 and 17-20 depend from claims 1 and 11 and recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3, 6, 9-10, 12-13 and 17-20 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 over *Smith et al* and *L'Heureux et al* at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2-3, 6, 9-10, 12-13 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Smith et al* and *L'Heureux et al* and further in view of *Frantz* (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,070).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As discussed above, since nothing in the combination of the primary references to *Smith et al* and *L'Heureux et al* shows, teaches or suggests the primary features as claimed in claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the primary references with the secondary reference to *Frantz* would not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 7-8 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Smith et al.* and *L'Heureux et al.* and further in view of *Motoyama et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,092) and applicant's admitted prior art.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As discussed above, nothing in *Smith et al.* or *L'Heureux et al.* show, teach or suggest newly installing equipment management apparatus or first and second communication systems as claimed in claims 14. Additionally, nothing in *Smith et al.* or *L'Heureux et al.* show, teach or suggest registering information concerning an equipment management apparatus to be newly installed at a central management apparatus or a first communication system in which a central management apparatus transmits connection check data without receiving initial transmission data from equipment to be newly installed as claimed in claim 14.

Motoyama et al. merely discloses a connectionless-mode of communication and a connection-mode type of communication. However, nothing in *Motoyama et al.* shows, teaches or suggests a) determining the type of communication system between a newly installed apparatus and a central management apparatus and b) transmitting connection check data as claimed in claim 14.

Furthermore, *Motoyama et al.* merely discloses determining whether a connection mode or an e-mail mode of communication is needed (column 16, lines 46-48). Nothing in *Motoyama et al.* shows, teaches or suggests registering

information at a central management apparatus concerning an apparatus to be newly installed as claimed in claim 14.

Applicant's admitted prior art merely discloses that when a newly installed equipment management apparatus is activated, connection check data is transmitted to the central management center. Thus, Applicant's prior art teaches away from the claimed invention since as claimed in claim 14, the central management apparatus transmits to the newly installed equipment management apparatus and not vice versa as the prior art.

A combination of the references would merely suggest to transmit an e-mail about the status of a machine as taught by *Smith et al.* and to store the e-mail into a server as taught by *L'Heureux et al.*, communicating by either a connectionless-mode or connection mode and if a newly installed apparatus is installed, to have the newly installed apparatus transmit check data to a central management apparatus. Thus, nothing in the combination of the references shows, teaches or suggests the primary features as claimed in claim 14 as discussed above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 7-8 and 15-16 depend from claims 1 and 14 and recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-8 and 15-16 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 over the references at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 1-6, 9-13 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Kraslavsky et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626) in view of *L'Heureux et al.*

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

Kraslavsky et al. merely discloses storing default configuration of a printer in a NVRAM 228 (column 10, lines 58-62, column 20, lines 23-38). Applicant respectfully points out that NVRAM 228 is not a transmission controller of a central management apparatus for transmitting to a data processor, in advance of installing a new equipment management apparatus, packet data addressed to the newly installed equipment management apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 11. Rather, NVRAM 228 of *Kraslavsky et al.* is merely a storage device storing printer configuration parameters.

As discussed above, *L'Heureux et al.* merely discloses storing e-mail in a server until a recipient is in an e-mail session. Nothing in *L'Heureux et al.* shows, teaches or suggests installing a new equipment management apparatus or transmitting data in advance of installing a new equipment management apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 11.

A combination of *Kraslavsky et al.* and *L'Heureux et al.* would merely suggest to download default configuration from a storage device to a printer as taught by *Kraslavsky et al.* and to put any e-mail into a server as taught by *L'Heureux et al.* Thus, nothing in the combination of *Kraslavsky et al.* or *L'Heureux et al.* show, teach

or suggest in advance of installing a new equipment management apparatus, transmitting packet data as claimed in claims 1 and 11. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 2-6, 9-10, 12-13 and 17-20 depend from claims 1 and 11 and recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6, 9-10, 12-13 and 17-20 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 over *Kraslavsky et al* and *L'Heureux et al* at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2-6, 9-10, 12-13 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 7-8 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Kraslavsky et al* and *L'Heureux et al* and further in view of *Motoyama et al* and applicant's admitted prior art.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As discussed above, nothing in *Kraslavsky et al.* and *L'Heureux et al.* show, teach or suggest installing equipment management apparatus, registering information concerning equipment management apparatus to be newly installed at a central management apparatus and determining the type of communication system between the newly installed equipment management apparatus and a central management apparatus as claimed in claim 14.

As discussed above, *Motoyama et al.* merely discloses a connectionless-mode transmission and a connection-mode transmission. Nothing in *Motoyama et al.* shows, teaches or suggests newly installing equipment management apparatus, or registering information concerning the to be installed equipment management apparatus at a central management apparatus as claimed in claim 14.

Furthermore, as discussed above, Applicant's admitted prior art teaches away from the claimed invention since the newly installed apparatus transmits information to a central management apparatus whereas as claimed in claim 14, the central management apparatus transmits to the newly installed equipment management apparatus.

The combination of the references would merely suggest to download default printer connections from a storage device as taught by *Kraslavsky et al.*, to store e-mail into a server as taught by *L'Heureux et al.*, to use two types of connections as taught by *Motoyama et al.* and to have newly installed equipment transmit information to a central apparatus. Thus, nothing in the combination of the references shows, teaches or suggests the primary features as claimed in claim 14. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 7-8 and 15-16 recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-8 and 15-16 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 over the references at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 7-8 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enters this Response for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

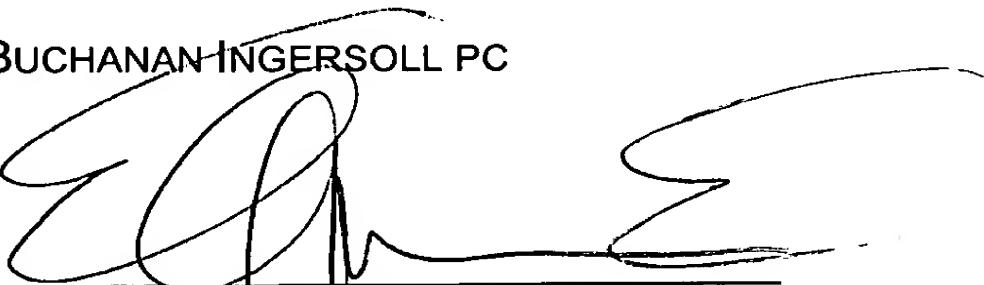
In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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